



Dress like a Disney princess

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One, two, three, and swing

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Lights, camera, action!

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Pre-architecture club rising up

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October 14, 2015  
Issue 3

# THE DIAMOND

## Giving Day brings in double its goal in scholarship money

Meagan DeGraaf – Staff Writer

Expensive tuition costs are a common concern among college students. But Dordt students take heart! Although the student body may disagree, Dordt College is doing all it can to lessen the fiscal burden by offering many opportunities for scholarships and financial aid.

In order to achieve the goal of raising \$60,000 in new scholarship money, Dordt College launched Giving Day, a day for friends of the Dordt community to facilitate in the achievement of this goal.

Because of the overwhelming generosity of the community surrounding Dordt College, this goal was met and far exceeded by many contributions, from alumni, relatives and friends of the school. The website set up for the project, [www.dordtgives.com](http://www.dordtgives.com), generated donations from over 200 people, doubling the original goal.

Over the weekend, the website ran different events and challenges in order to meet the various goals set for scholarships. The events were a success: the Dordt community doubled its goal, raising more than \$123,000.

Special challenges to the goal included location-based goals which requested donations from people in different parts of the country. Other donations required a certain amount of donors to unlock a larger monetary donation. Several of these challenges were conquered and greater funds were added to the already large sum.

Most of these challenges were sponsored by members of the greater Dordt College community.

There were also local events that helped raise money. Golf outings and dinners at churches provided opportunities for the Sioux Center community to support the college that is so central to their town.

Social media played a large role in the project as well. Donors following Dordt College on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were encouraged to give and participate in challenges. Those who couldn't afford to give large sums of money were still urged to donate a gift, no matter how small, or at the very least share the Giving Days event to their social media page.

President and Dr. Hoekstra also used social media to participate. The Dordt College Twitter account sent out a tweet promising a \$5 donation from President Hoekstra for every retweet within a time frame. The tweet received over 100 retweets, adding the president's share to the scholarship fund for Dordt.

The Twitter feed was filled not only with opportunities to give, but also with thanks and praise from the students.

"Dordt is providing me with fundamental insights and experiences that are transforming my worldview," sophomore Sion Yang said in a tweet sent out in encouragement for donors.

Students have reason to be thankful, not only for the donors and scholarship funds but also for a college that makes an effort to provide an affordable education for its students.

\$123,000+

## Jindal serves politics with a side of pizza

Joel Dotinga – Staff Writer

Northwest Iowa voters packed the Orange City Pizza Ranch on Friday, Oct. 9 to evaluate Republican candidate Bobby Jindal. The audience consisted of Dordt College Republican Club members, high school students and local citizens, who expressed concern over hot-button issues ranging from defunding Planned Parenthood to bringing change in Washington DC.

Jindal's political history proved to be a concern for those in attendance. If Jindal is elected president, many individuals fear his political history will force him into the typical mold of the nation's politicians. Alton resident Mike Callangy said, "I was looking for someone who is not involved in government. Jindal has a difficulty because those in Washington are going to think of him as one of them and expect him to knuckle under when he gets there. If you keep doing things the same way and expect results, you are just a fool."

Callangy thinks northwest Iowans' two greatest demands on the president are a reduction of the national debt and a return to biblical morality; two great issues Jindal addressed throughout the night.

In regards to fiscal responsibility, Jindal claimed his positive history of spending cuts sets him apart from other candidates.

In terms of spiritual revival, Jindal's campaign speeches commonly call for the establishment of a biblical vision in the United States. "Voters, even in democratic areas, are seeing the need for a spiritual revival. People are seeing these mass shootings and other horrors, causing them to wake up and say, 'We do need something different in our country,'" said Jindal.

Steve Kelly, Dordt College Republican's club representative, said, "I am looking for a candidate who is going to do what he says. A lot of the candidates claim to be conservative, but I want a candidate who actually lives up to that title."

Governor Jindal believes he is that candidate. An October poll released by NBC indicates Jindal is climbing to a six percent rating in Iowa. This rating propels Jindal to tie with Marco Rubio for sixth place, though he still lies behind the rest of the GOP candidates.

An increase in the polls for Jindal may be attributed to his focus on Iowa over the past few weeks. In an interview, Jindal said, "There is a saying in Louisiana, 'You go hunting where the ducks are.' The first votes will be cast right here in Iowa."

Jindal views winning votes in Iowa on February 1 as a strategic move because the Republican nominee has consecutively won in either Iowa or New Hampshire over the past 50 years.



Photo by Joel Dotinga  
Presidential candidate Bobby Jindal lays out his plan at the Orange City Pizza Ranch.

## Gun control conversations increase in number due to escalated violence

Allison Young – Staff Writer

On Friday, Oct. 9 over 200 gun-rights activists lined the streets of Roseburg, OR to protest President Obama. The president arrived in Oregon to mourn with the families of the nine victims of a mass shooting that occurred at Umpqua Community College. Earlier the same day, shootings at Texas Southern University and Northern Arizona University resulted in two victims.

These events add fuel to the fire of the ongoing national gun control debate. The White House Administration is reconsidering a gun control proposal which would redefine licensed gun dealers as anyone who sells above a minimum number of guns per year. All gun dealers would be required to conduct background checks on potential buyers.

Dordt students are voicing their opinions on the future of our nation's gun control policies. This two-part feature reflects students' feelings on hot topics associated with gun control.

### "Mental health" debate has people going insane

The uncovering the many shooters' disturbing premeditations brings mental illness into focus as a leading cause of such tragedies. The main premise of the rising idea claims mental illness leads to gun violence, meaning any form of gun control will be ineffective in preventing the mentally deranged from following through with premeditated plans.

Many politicians and citizens blame the U.S. mental health system, asserting its underfunded staff and facilities need a major overhaul.

An anonymous Dordt student said, "In my hometown, we had a guy that the court wouldn't let into the mental institution and, two weeks later, he shot and killed a sheriff's officer. So mental health is a big issue [in gun control]."

The copycat nature of shooting sprees and the desire for bloody publicity appears to be a common thread running through the minds and motives of mass shooters.



Contributed photo  
Groups of demonstrators have begun protesting gun-control measures.

"When the media says [a shooter's] name all the time, then they're getting what they want. They think, 'Oh, this guy did it and now he's famous, so I'm going to do the same thing just because I have a problem with the world,'" another anonymous student said.

### Background checks: Do they actually work?

Universal background checks stored in a centralized database for all 50 states would be implemented under the assumption that psychiatric diagnosis can predict gun crime.

Dordt junior Anya Kalsbeek believes using background checks weeds out potential psychopaths from purchasing firearms while still allowing the majority of the population to exercise their right to bear arms.

"The people who are stable enough to have the ability to keep a gun will still be able to get them with these gun control laws, so I don't think that it would be infringing on their rights," Kalsbeek said.

The opposition states background checks are merely another hoop for law-abiding citizens to

jump through while criminals and the mentally deranged will continue to live by their own rules. Opponents of the legislature argue a clear legal record doesn't prove a person will never misuse a gun in the future because humans are unpredictable beings. The 26-year-old who killed nine and wounded seven in Roseburg owned 14 legally-purchased firearms and had a clear record previous to his lethal rampage.

"If you look at it, these [killers] are legal citizens that have never done anything wrong. They have no background. So a more thorough background check isn't going to stop these people," anonymous said.

**Still to come:** The gun control discussion will continue in part two of this series. Dordt students will voice their opinions on the accessibility of guns, look at correlations between crime rates and gun control under other prototypes, debate the possibility of arming school faculty and express personal opinions on how the community can play a role in this issue.



# Defender Days 2015 Schedule

## Thursday, Oct. 22

7:30 p.m. **Fall Theatre Production: Godspell**, Te Paske Theatre (located in Sioux Center High School)  
10 p.m. **Praise and Worship**, Campus Center

## Friday, Oct. 23

6:45 a.m. **Business Connections Breakfast**, Campus Center.  
*Our featured speaker, Brian Vos ('85) from The Wine Group, will talk broadly about "stewardship" in today's business world, sharing some examples of how a conscious focus on stewardship manifests itself in the business model, structure, values and culture of The Wine Group.*  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m. **Visit Classes**  
11 a.m. **Chapel**, B.J. Haan Auditorium  
2 p.m. **Campus Tour**, meet at registration in the Campus Center Lobby  
3 p.m. **Small Music Festival**, B.J. Haan Auditorium  
4:30 p.m. **The Goheen Gallop 5k Fun Run**, All Seasons Center  
5 - 6:30 p.m. **Welcome Reception**, lower level of the Campus Center.  
*Here's a place for alumni to reconnect, and for parents to meet their student's college friends.*  
7 p.m. **Men's Varsity Volleyball**, De Witt Gymnasium  
7 p.m. **Fall Music Festival**, B.J. Haan Auditorium.  
*Concert includes Campus-Community Band, Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra, Chorale and Concert Choir. A freewill offering will be received during the concert.*  
7:30 p.m. **Blades Hockey**, All Seasons Center  
10 p.m. **Late Night with the Defenders**, De Witt Gymnasium  
10:30 p.m. **Dordt Improv**, B.J. Haan Auditorium

## Saturday, Oct. 24

8:45 - 10:15 a.m. **President's Brunch**, Rec Center (invitation open to all)  
8:45 - 10:15 a.m. **Siblings' Brunch**, Campus Center  
10:30 a.m. **Sowers Lacrosse Alumni Game**, soccer practice field  
11:15 - noon. **DC Broader Vision Seminars**  
Noon - 1 p.m. **Tailgate**, football field parking lot. *Donations received will be used in support of PLIA.*  
1 p.m. **Women's Volleyball Alumni match**, De Witt Gymnasium  
1 p.m. **Women's Soccer vs. Nebraska Wesleyan**, soccer field  
1 p.m. **Football Game vs. Midland**, football field  
2 p.m. **Fall Theatre Production: Godspell**, Te Paske Theatre  
2 p.m. **Organ Showcase**, B.J. Haan Auditorium  
3:15 p.m. **Men's Soccer vs. Morningside**, soccer field  
3:30 p.m. **JV Women's Volleyball vs. Hastings**, De Witt Gymnasium  
4:15 p.m. **Blades Hockey Game**, All Seasons Center  
5 p.m. **Volleyball vs. Hastings**, De Witt Gymnasium  
5 p.m. **Defender Nation Dinner**, lower level of Campus Center. *Recognition of distinguished Alumni will occur.*  
7:30 p.m. **Men's Basketball Alumni Games**, De Witt Gymnasium  
7:30 p.m. **Fall Theatre Production: Godspell**, Te Paske Theatre  
9 p.m. **Praise and Worship**, lower level of the Campus Center  
9:15 - 10:30 p.m. **Ice Cream Social**, Dining Hall

# Controversial “Virtual Locker” portfolio to change college admissions process

Elizabeth Bouwkamp – Staff Writer

A recent debate at the National Association for College Admission Counseling Conference stirred controversy regarding a new “virtual locker” application system that would replace the Common Application used by countless colleges and universities in the initial process for accepting incoming students.

As of September 29, 80 selective colleges have assembled together calling themselves the “Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success.” Coalition participants include all acclaimed Ivy League schools along with numerous other prestigious institutions.

The new “virtual locker” application system will create a portfolio allowing for a “stronger college-going mind-set.” Starting in 9th grade, students would have the ability to contribute essays, poems, tests, quizzes, artwork, or anything worth educationally noting to a portfolio that can be uploaded to admissions counselors and potential colleges. Students would have the ability to receive feedback from viewers regarding their portfolios and constructive criticism on ways to improve their file of information.

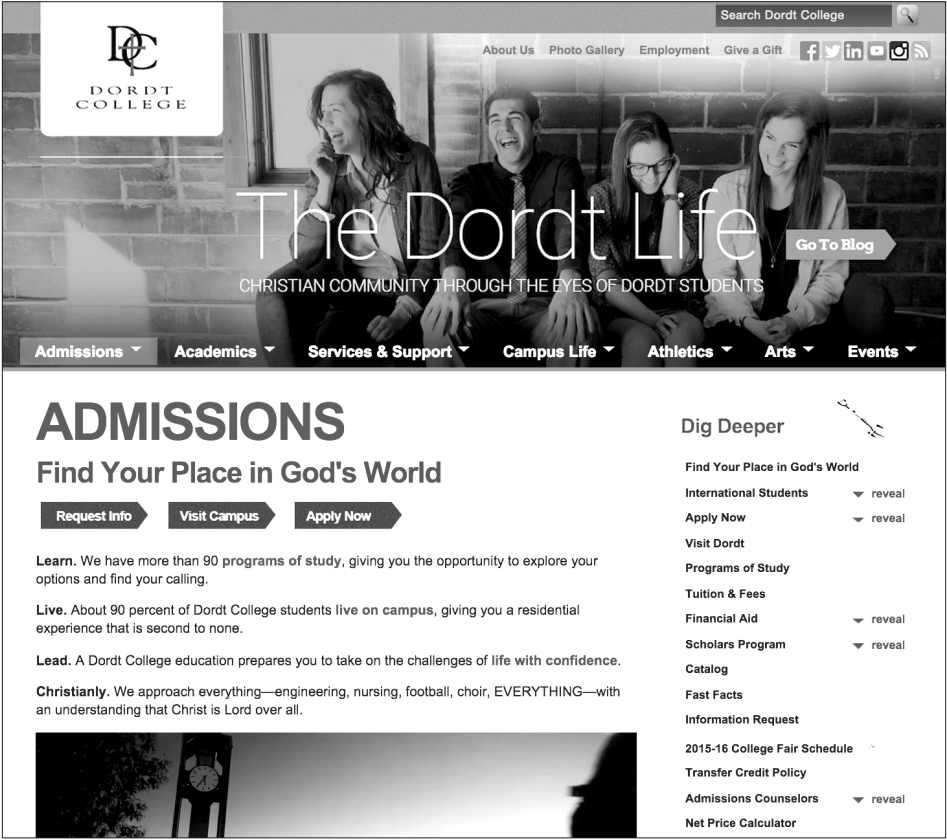
The goal of expanding a college-going mindset extends to students from underrepresented minorities and social classes who struggle to attain the proper tools necessary for college planning.

The Common Application seemed to present technical problems and an idea for a new application system grew.

A fundamental objective for the application is “expanding college access, especially for students who lack helpful guidance,” John F. Latting, Dean of Admission at Emory University said. “We want to make the idea of going to college a part of their world, earlier.”

Zina L. Evans, Vice President for Enrollment at the University of Florida, sought to dispel false ideas about the initiative.

“This is not just, ‘Here’s another app to choose from,’” said Evans. Rather, it is an attempt to expel the college process “not just as a single transaction that happens during the fall semester of senior year,” continued Evans.



The new application proposal is facing criticism. The access and success supported by the new coalition has come under attack as colleges partaking in the new portfolio application must have a six-year graduation rate of 70 percent.

This requirement poses challenges to the thought behind the new application process: If underrepresented students are a large portion of the targeted audience, one must question the reason that membership was restricted in the first place.

A dean at the conference, who wished to remain anonymous, addressed the participating colleges in the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success as schools using their “money and power.”

“It’s a deceiving marketing ploy, but in the end, they will win. The elite colleges always do,” said the anonymous source.

Numerous agitated responses were written claiming that the gap between the rich and poor would only be elevated in this new portfolio system. Other concerns were also raised pertaining to students’ anxiety and stress levels when starting the college planning process in 9th grade.

There is still potential talk of making the portfolio system available already in January 2016; however, fears of the system being rushed, impulsive and potentially concentrated with mishaps continue to fuel the educational controversy.

# Dordt scientific minds use grant to improve Heartland Area education

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

Over the past four years, a group of Dordt professors has worked with teachers in local grade schools and high schools in an effort to improve their science-teaching techniques and in-class experiments.

Now, because of a grant from the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), Dordt now has the opportunity to integrate authentic biochemistry and molecular biology experiments in classrooms beyond the campus. Kindergarteners, high school seniors and all grades in between will benefit from the grant’s funding.

In an effort to make in-class experiments replicate authentic lab work, Dordt professors met with local teachers before the grant became a reality.

Darren Stoub, Jeff Ploegstra, lab instructor Brittany De Ruyter and a few Dordt students worked with Western Christian High School to bring a genotyping experiment into a sophomore science class. Students had the opportunity to extract samples of their own DNA and use gel electrophoresis to test for the presence of a particular gene. This genotyping project introduced high school students to an experimental procedure used by official scientists.

The grant program will help local instructors

teach students proper scientific procedures and standards before they reach a college-level science lab.

“Most experiments in middle school and high school classes demonstrate principles and techniques, but they don’t use the scientific method,” said Stoub, one of Dordt’s group leaders.

Through the ASBMB grant, Dordt hopes to provide high school students with greater opportunities to understand the application of science to everyday life.

“There are two main purposes to the grant,” Stoub said. “One, we’d like to improve the quality of the experiments available to students. Two, we want to train other teachers in the Heartland area.”

Dordt plans to equip teachers with resources and experience through a week-long summer workshop held on Dordt’s campus.

“We work through the Next Generation Science Standards, [which offer] good pedagogy, and the teachers would have the opportunity to work through labs themselves,” Stoub said.

Current and future Dordt education majors and science education majors will have the opportunity to get involved in the partisanship program. Through this program, students and the greater community will be equipped to experience science at a higher level.

# PLIA program thrives through testimonials

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

Maybe you saw them at the Taste of Sioux Center. Perhaps you heard about them from a friend. Maybe you’ve known about them for years already. Whether you’re new to campus or a veteran, you’ve probably heard of Putting Love Into Action (PLIA), the Dordt spring break mission trip.

Most people know about PLIA despite the PLIA team running a relatively small advertising campaign. Yes, they put an announcement on the chapel screen as spring break approaches, they put up posters and participate in social media, but that’s not their focus. Their real means of letting people know about the trip is word of mouth. People who go on PLIA are people who talk about PLIA.

PLIA Co-Chair Kevin Steiger explained that it’s great to see God working in communities through the work the teams do, and the communities are grateful for the help.

“It doesn’t feel like you’re sacrificing a spring break. You’re not losing anything; it’s all gain,” Steiger said.

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# Engineers bridge gap in Liberia

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

Engineers Austin Lindemulder, Peter Hoelsema, Kyle Vander Zee and Eric Fedders saw a need and filled it. When One Body One Hope needed a bridge built in Liberia, the four seniors dedicated their senior engineering project to making it happen.

They had to gather support, find supplies, design the bridge and prepare the pieces for assembly. They spent over 100 man hours on the preparation process alone.

It started two years ago when Lindemulder went on AMOR, Dordt’s Christmas break mission and service trip. He spent time in Liberia with Aaron Baart and became inspired to help others. In a conversation with Baart, he asked how he could use his engineering for mission-type work. Baart replied, “Well, we need a bridge built.”

One Body One Hope, a relationship and redevelopment group in Liberia, is buying 110 acres of land to add to their farm. The new land is separated from the village by a large creek. The creek makes it nearly impossible to carry supplies over to the new acreage, especially the rice mill, which is roughly the size of a couch.

“We both laughed because it was a huge project,” Lindemulder said. Huge or not, the project stuck in his mind. The more he thought about it, the more he wanted to do it. “At first, it was just going to be under the radar, then we decided we wanted to take the time to do it right.” He decided to make it into a senior design project, and was joined by Hoelsema, Vander Zee and Fedders.

They communicated with many companies to get the necessary supplies and support. Sioux Center Health even donated beams from their old location for the project.

“So many people have come beside this to help us out,” Lindemulder said.

The preparation is finished, but the project is far from done.

“We were pretty nervous about [shipping] for a while; that was the big hurdle,” Hoelsema said. He was in charge of this stage and called numerous companies to see what they could do. Eventually, they found Held & Associates, a Kansas City-based company that specialized in this kind of shipping.

The bridge’s journey to Liberia started on Monday. It is being trucked from Sioux Center to Kansas City and then to Virginia. From there, the bridge will board a cargo ship to the building site in Liberia. The whole process will take 50-55 days.

The four team members along with three other students will fly to the site immediately after first semester exams. They will spend

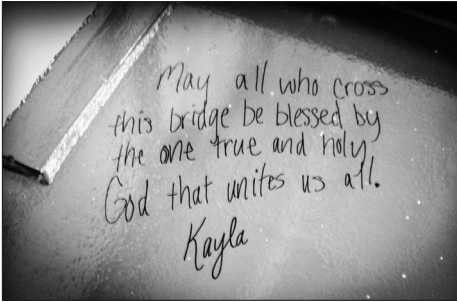


Photo by Janelle Cammenga  
Several of the beams that will become a bridge in Liberia.

Christmas break there and build the bridge with the help of locals and an AMOR team that will arrive after Christmas. They appreciate all the help they are getting.

“There’s no way we can build it ourselves,” Lindemulder said.

The team would appreciate prayers that the bridge would arrive on time and the shipping and unloading process would go smoothly. “Getting it there is one thing,” Lindemulder said, “but getting it out of port is another thing.”

The seniors are glad to be helping God’s work, and glad to be getting others involved. “The best part,” Lindemulder said, “is seeing the community and campus come behind this project and support what God is doing in Liberia.”

# Outdoor seating included in plans for campus development

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

Three weeks ago, Student Symposium and Residence Life looked at blueprints and plans for architectural changes to be made at Dordt over the next five years.

Among the changes considered was an addition of outdoor seating. The heads of the project plan to replace the parking lot by the commons with a seating area and a fountain. They will also add clusters of seating along the green space in between Covenant Hall and the BJ Haan Auditorium.

Megan Knapper, one of the students who attended this meeting, believes the outdoor seating areas will be an improvement to campus.

“Right now, there’s not really a place to hang out with your friends outside. These areas will be intentional community areas,” Knapper said.

Along with the benches, more trees will be planted in the green spaces.

Connor Engbers, a sophomore, has some mixed feelings about the additions.

“If it’s a nice day, I do believe that people will sit outside and do their homework. But there’s also a chance that it might not get used a lot since most of the school year is in the cold season,” Engbers said.

On the other hand, some students, like sophomore Ben Bajema, don’t think the cold

weather will be an issue.

“I like the idea of adding park benches and making the grass area more of a hangout spot. I see tons of people playing Frisbee or hanging around that area so I think benches would encourage even more people to spend time there. Although weather is still a factor, I don’t think it’s a deterrent for the benches,” Bajema said.

Benches are not the only change that Dordt has planned for campus. Other changes in the works include a two-year program building, moving the bookstore to the commons and using the current bookstore space as an advancement office for PLIA and AMOR. Students like Kevin Steiger, who attended the meeting, say that the benches weren’t even the highlight.

“I honestly don’t think we need that many. A couple of benches outside each hall is nice. People like to have a place to sit when they make a phone call, and the bench by the library gets used a lot for this. But since six months of the year are in winter, it’s not quite as important as some of these other changes,” Steiger said.

Students like Knapper have their own ideas about bench necessities.

“Benches outside 55th might be nice; I think they were talking about that. Just know that if students want something, the right people will hear about it,” Knapper said.

# PLIA program thrives through testimonials (cont.)

Continued from page 2

They do a lot of work on their trips, but that’s not all there is to PLIA; there’s a lot of fun and friendship-building involved.

“It’s a cool way to meet eight brand new people in a really different setting,” Steiger said.

Steiger shared that he still talks with his PLIA team members he met freshman year.

“You get to meet random people! And seek shalom, of course,” said PLIA committee member Andrew Cammenga in regards to his favorite part of the trip.

On average, 120-130 people take part in the group each year, with eight to 10 people at each particular site. In most cases, the planning

committee tries to make sure those eight to 10 people haven’t interacted before the trip; they encourage forming new relationships with team members.

“When you spend 18 hours one way [riding with someone] in a car, you get to know them pretty well, whether you like it or not,” Steiger said.

PLIA not only builds community between the school and the work sites, but it also builds community between the members of the teams. The students enjoy the experience and want to go back again. There’s no need for excessive advertising. Participants are passionate about what they do and share their experience with others.

# Lawsuit against LinkedIn feature ends in favor of users

Courtney de Wolde – Staff Writer

If you have been using LinkedIn for over a year and used the “Add Connections” feature between the dates of Sept. 17, 2011, and Oct. 31, 2014 then you may be eligible to make up to \$1500. Talk about a nice tuition grant.

A few years ago, a lawsuit was filed against LinkedIn concerning their “Add Connections” feature and its unannounced spamming of users’ contacts. The purpose of this feature is for LinkedIn members to import and invite their contacts to “connect” with them on LinkedIn by sending them an invitation through an email. What these account members were unaware of was when they enabled “Add Connections” to their account, they were not sending out just one email to the selected contacts. If the invitee did not respond to the initial email, at least two more follow-up emails were sent to the contact, along with the possibility of additional ones. This upset many users, as they felt their reputation on the professional social media site was tainted as their contacts now had the impression of them as

a spammer.

Recently, LinkedIn decided to stop fighting and settle this class-action lawsuit. The price: a \$13 million payout for eligible users who file a claim. LinkedIn sent out an email with a claim number for each of their users who have implemented the “Add Connections” feature with their account saying they are eligible to be compensated with a part of the \$13 million. In addition to LinkedIn agreeing to this settlement, as well as a further \$3.25 million in legal fees, if enough users submit claims then another \$750,000 will be added to the original compensation amount.

To be eligible, the LinkedIn member must have used the service between Sept. 17, 2011, and Oct. 31, 2014 in order to file a claim. The filing deadline is Dec. 14.

If you deleted the email thinking it was spam or did not receive the email at all and think you are qualified to submit a claim, the law firm representing LinkedIn set up a website - www.addconnectionsettlement.com - where you can manually submit a claim.



In addition to the payout, LinkedIn has revised their disclosures to clarify two reminder emails will be sent as part of its “Add Connections” feature. The company says it will, by the end of the year, also offer an option to

users to cancel a connection invitation sent to them, thereby halting any additional reminder emails from being sent out.



# ◆ News ◆

## Members of swing dance club participate in off-campus ballroom dancing

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

It was a night of learning, dancing and learning to dance. On Oct. 9, 27 members of the Dordt Swing Dance Club attended the “Big Band Dance and Masque Ball” at the El Riad Shrine dance hall in Sioux Falls, SD.

The Mearl Lake Orchestra provided live music for the evening. The sets were generally songs of similar style and included the waltz, foxtrot, two-step and polka music, in addition to swing music.

The event was co-hosted by the Ballroom Dance Club of Sioux Falls and the El Riad Dance Club as a continuation of a series of dances set to occur on the second Friday of every month.

The Dordt Swing Dance Club has been well-represented at these monthly dances for the past year. The first dance that the group attended was the October masquerade held last year. There were 13 Dordt students at the 2014 dance. Last Friday, 27 students attended.

Of the 27, seven were “leads” and 20 were “follows.” Junior Andrew Cammenga was running off of four hours of sleep that night, but friends were successful in convincing him to attend at the last minute in order to supplement the poor male-to-female ratio of the dancers. Junior Joshua Perkinson did his best to convince more people from Dordt to attend by relating the funny story of an incident that happened to him when he first went to the dance and attempted to dip a female dancer.

“The real way to get college experience is to go to Sioux Falls and rip your pants,” Perkinson said.

Students who didn’t bring masks to the masque ball had the opportunity to borrow masks at a table in the dance hall entrance. Junior Rachel Blom chose a white, feathered mask, but declined to dance in it.

“I am not wearing that,” Blom said. “I look like a baby pigeon.”

Senior Ben Vermeer brought his Batman mask, but only wore it during the parade of masks halfway through the night. The parade ended in a tango line dance. As many struggled to follow the instructor, Vermeer garnered praise for his smooth tango, but later admitted that he couldn’t follow the instructor either and was making it up as he went.

Cammenga noticed that dancing on the El Riad dance floor requires more awareness than dancing in the aerobics room at Dordt.

“Everybody’s moving,” Cammenga said. “You do a stationary move and then you have to keep moving.”

Senior Tracy Bousema noticed a generation gap in those present at the dance.

“There’s an older generation and a younger generation, but no one in the middle,” Bousema said. “I don’t see anyone I would classify with my parents.”

Vermeer suggested the idea that “there are the people who danced it when it was popular and the people who are trying to bring it back.”



**Left:** Photo by Audrey Henken  
Three masked dancers pose for a picture at the ballroom dance.

**Below:** Photo by Courtney Braun  
Dordt Defenders twist the night away.



“A lot of these people have been dancing since before we were born,” Bousema said. “It almost seems timeless. A different taste and flavor for each generation.”

In between sets, an elderly man pulled aside freshman Lexi Cox and Vermeer for an impromptu dance lesson. Cox and Vermeer learned the foxtrot and got a taste of the life story of Dale, a ballroom dance instructor, including where he was raised and the professions of his three children: a doctor, an engineer and an

Airborne.

The Swing Dance Club will continue to attend the monthly dances at the El Riad Shrine and will strive to build the relationship between the broader dancing community and Dordt College.

Why not join the cause? The Club meets every Tuesday in the Aerobics Room of the Rec Center. The music starts at 8 p.m. but the “lesson” doesn’t begin until 8:30 p.m. Beginners and experts alike are welcome!

## Recent shootings raise concerns about campus security

Allison Young – Staff Writer

Fear of being unsafe is one reason that no student should have to dread going to school. Recent shootings at a high school in Harrisburg, SD, and Umpqua Community College near Roseburg, OR, have raised questions concerning campus security and gun control laws amongst the Dordt community.

In the wake of these atrocities, school campuses across the nation are re-examining their security protocols. Robert Taylor, Dordt College Dean of Students, continues to assure that vigilant security practices are upheld within the Dordt community.

“I think our crime statistics would show that we have fewer incidents than most places, but I also think most places have a false sense of security,” Taylor said. “We don’t want to live in any illusions that it won’t happen here just because we live in a very safe community.”

A mass notification system that will alert students of on-campus crises and emergencies is currently in the works. After researching the technology behind this instant communication network, Student Services will soon select a vendor with which to partner.

“It may be as early as next semester that we’ll roll out the opportunity for students to opt in,” Taylor said.

Many Dordt students may not realize that Dordt’s security staff is entirely student-led. While any student may apply, preference is given to criminal justice majors and those that are personally recommended. Currently, ten male students comprise the staff body.

The main responsibilities of campus security include locking and unlocking doors to buildings on campus, regulating parking violations and reporting activities that violate Dordt’s policies. They also respond to student requests for rides from distant parking spots and assist students who get locked out of their dorms.

The security staff is trained to be first responders, like the eyes and ears for law enforcement. The strong relationship the staff has with Sioux Center Police Department gives them the advantage of using police band radios to call in the support of area law enforcement and first responders for any emergency situations,



Contributed photo

disasters or crimes that are punishable by law.

“In a scenario like a shooting, we would try to keep the situation under control until the police show up and then turn it over to them right away,” said Will Vande Voort, a campus security leader.

Dordt Security follows Best Practice protocols, which are the most effective procedures that professionals recommend for situations such as campus emergencies.

“If it is a school shooting, we’re not going to go charging into the building and try to save the day,” Vande Voort said. “There are some situations that are out of our hands, and in instances like that, law officials are definitely called.”

Last year, Dordt College and area first responders and law enforcement agencies conducted a large-scale crisis simulation that included an active shooter scenario. Fully equipped policemen locked down the Science and Technology Center in the reenactment.

“It’s things like that that help us feel like we’re doing as much as we can to be prepared if we would have a horrible thing like a shooting,” Taylor said.

Personally, Taylor believes that people need to take safety precautions and be aware of what is happening in the world, but also continue to live their lives to the fullest.

“We’re not supposed to live in fear,” Taylor said. “That’s not the way that God would have us to live. I think that we are to live wisely and to be prepared, but to know that ultimately, God is sovereign, and he cares deeply for us.”

## New pre-architectural club inspired by conference and exhibit

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

During its October 6th meeting, Student Symposium unanimously approved a proposal for a pre-architecture club.

Club leader, Wade Vollink described the club as a place for students to prepare for graduate work and exercise an interest in architecture. Because Dordt only has three pre-architectural majors declared, the club is not geared for a certain major but for all who are interested in architecture and grad school.

Over heartland break, Vollink and pre-architecture major Ariel Gomes traveled to the Chicago area to visit three graduate programs and the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial, which featured architects from all over the world who presented their designs. They stayed on different campuses for the three nights of the trip.

Gomes first heard about the Chicago trip through Vollink. Gomes said that it was helpful to visit the grad schools with an upperclassman because Vollink knew the right questions to ask. The pair learned that every grad school looks for evidence of student’s skill through some kind of design studio.

“That’s what shows them your potential,” Gomes said. “If you show that you can design, you have the ability to get into a two year program instead of a three year even without specific class credit.”

The pre-architecture club will allow students to work on personal design projects in a studio time to supplement the Dordt curriculum. The club has a project in the works to recreate iconic city blocks through architectural models.

The new club accompanies an exhibit in the campus center art gallery featuring real world designs from three alumni working in architectural careers. Vollink sees their work as examples of how architects design spaces with people, purposes and the interactions between the two in mind.

“It’s going to invite the viewer to see the potential for a space,” Vollink said. “Which is what we do as architects.”

Art gallery coordinator David Versluis developed this design exhibition because of a growing architectural interest on campus and as a unique exhibit for defender days. The exhibit is curated by alumni John Den Boer who

contributed designs and will deliver a gallery talk on October 24.

The pre-architecture club hopes to invite such professionals to campus to speak, get to know students and present different possibilities in the field of architecture.

Engineering professor Joel Sikkema says that Dordt’s pre-architecture students benefit from a blend of construction management, engineering and art influences.

“It’s not just about the money. It’s not just about the design,” Sikkema said. “It’s about the synthesis of all these coming together. We have a vision for the space, but we also have constraints.”

The schools that Vollink and Gomes met with around Chicago were impressed by their broad repertoire. In Vollink’s four years at Dordt, he said the program has become more open for students to choose classes of interest to them.

“It’s easy to meet the demands of the system,” Vollink said. “My challenge is to think about what would enrich myself.”

The pre-architecture club hopes to take this energy and interest in architecture at Dordt and increase architectural opportunities on campus for both the pre-professional students and those with interest in architecture.



Contributed photo



# The honest answer: why I am not a Calvinist

Abigail Olson – Staff Writer

I am not Reformed.  
I am not a Calvinist.  
It may be a surprise, but people like me do attend Dordt. We even like it here.  
Before arriving at Dordt, I told people “Yeah, it’s a Reformed school, but it’s really more interdenominational.”  
I had been led to believe that ideal, and it was what I expected. Until I arrived...  
My second day on campus, I went to church three times. A giant pipe organ drowned out every voice in the congregation. I was then informed we would NOT be going grocery shopping on Sunday afternoon.  
Then there was shalom.  
Shalom was a foreign concept to me. I was only in my first semester and Professors Lief, Kobes and Dengler tossed the word around like it was a time-tested baseball. I had never heard the word before, much less knew its meaning.  
I questioned my roommates to see if they were experiencing the same confusion. Puzzled by my ineptitude, they assured me shalom was, in fact, a real word.  
Throughout my past few years at Dordt, I have learned much about Calvinism and Reformed theology. As I have tried my hand at “being Reformed,” I have come to appreciate many of the tenets and beliefs of this theological tradition.

While practicing Reformed traditions, I have come to place value on a weekly time of rest: keeping the Sabbath, or maintaining a likeness of it. While thinking through Reformed theology, I have found the balance between emotional faith and intellectual faith. While internalizing Reformed ideals, I have found awe in the sovereignty of God. I have even learned the doctrine of shalom.  
Yet, I am not Reformed.  
As I read Why I Am Not a Calvinist by Jerry Walls, I have discovered some of the reasons I kept myself from fully accepting Reformed theology:  
1) I am not a Calvinist because I believe that total depravity does not equate to total inability, that God wills all people to be reconciled to Him and that God’s grace is an attitude and not an action.  
2) I am not a Calvinist because I believe Jesus’ death was sufficient for all, but only efficient for those who trust His name. If sin is universal, so must be the potential for atonement.  
The most honest answer, however, as to why am I not a Calvinist is probably the same as the answer to why you probably are: my family and my tradition. My family is not Calvinist, and my tradition is not Reformed.  
Ultimately, the doctrines of my faith tradition are not what keep me founded in my beliefs. Rather, it is the familiarity of my background—the normalcy of it. And, if you’re honest with

yourself, you remain in your original theological camp for the same reason.  
This is the challenge I now face: I, like all of you, can choose to blindly persist in the tradition handed to me upon my infant dedication (or for you Reformed folk, upon your infant baptism), or I can chose to examine the ideas and implications behind my theological tradition.  
For now, I am not a Calvinist.  
Yet I must, along with the entire campus, choose the second option, and we must find the answers to why we are—or are not—Calvinist.



# Caeden’s corner: guns kill violence

Caeden Tinklenberg – Staff Writer



Does owning a gun make a person violent? Alternatively, does taking a gun away reduce an individual’s desire to do evil?  
In the case of preventing mass shootings, the answer doesn’t matter.  
I don’t think psychology has any relevance to the debate about gun control. Mental stability is not predictable enough to use as justification for either granting or revoking constitutional rights. Background checks are not effective. All of the suspects of the recent mass shootings would have passed them. Putting in place hurdles to gun ownership only creates additional bureaucracy and cost without even coming close to producing the expected return: security. We already tried that with the TSA.  
It’s true, in an environment occupied by unprotected victims, someone with a gun would likely cause more harm than someone without one. However, the argument could be made that someone with a blade could eventually do more harm if not stopped because he has unlimited swings, whereas a gunman will eventually run out of rounds. Indeed, blades are more deadly in crowded spaces and have a much higher death/injury ratio.

Let’s be honest. What is most likely the greatest discouragement for those seeking to act out violently in the most dramatic fashion possible? Would not having access to an assault rifle cause them to reconsider? Did you know that assault rifles hold the bottom ranking for number of people killed last year from a firearm? We can put hurdles in place that blindly hinder all who desire to purchase firearms. We can take down the sign that reads, “Sitting ducks inside.”  
But the reality is there is no such thing as discouragement, not in any form a society can comprehensively apply at least.  
There is no way a government, which can’t even process immigration requests, can be expected to responsibly decide who is worthy of the second amendment. Even if it was, there are so many hot guns that even a caveman could buy one off the street.

If an individual has his or her mind set on doing something, they will follow through with whatever means they fancy. At this point, any actions taken toward achieving this action are illegal. They are beyond the point of abiding by the law. No words, pieces of paper or legislation will have any leverage on the course of events.  
The only way to stop a determined killer is with physical force. No matter what weapon a person has, he or she is capable of delivering incredible damage to the unprepared, the weak, the young and the defenseless. Bombs are not hard to make. Even if we trampled on the second amendment and made buying a firearm legally virtually impossible, in a country with somewhere around 350 million guns and without a government campaign to confiscate all guns, criminal access to firearms would not be affected at all.

People think they are entitled to safety. Safety is not something any government is capable of providing. We can take measures to increase safety, but it comes at a cost to freedom. In this case, the cost gun control activists want American citizens to pay actually results in decreased safety. If you want to be safe, don’t sacrifice your freedoms. Exercise them. Buy a gun. Wear it. You may not stop the first shot, but the second and third shot will be the end of the shooting, not of your life.

# From the editor: rethinking the virtues of progress

Jonathan Janssen – Staff Writer

Anyone with a passing familiarity for names like Henry Ford, Steve Jobs and Elon Musk will appreciate the significance these titans of industry have had on America’s technological advancement. Politicians and businessmen reference these men in a religious manner, whispering their names with meditative reverence and triumphing them as argument-enders in concurrent sentences. These titans’ unswerving adherence to progress has been heralded and immortalized by the American public.  
And yet, it seems as though every other article written for The New York Times (“Talk to Each Other, Not Your Phone”), The Atlantic (“Is ‘Progress’ Good for Humanity?”), and even the Christian millennial’s Relevant Magazine (“Let Go of Your Phone”) draws upon personal anecdote, social observation and scientific evidence to challenge the status quo of progress’s infinite virtues.  
Even the universally despised, fictional Hogwarts Professor Dolores Umbridge challenges the conception of progress in her inaugural speech, saying, “Progress for progress’s sake must be discouraged, for our tried and tested traditions often require no tinkering.”  
All this argument begs the ultimate question: Is the progress of humanity a thing of value?  
In the effort to answer this question, one finds a good counterexample to the virtue of progress in subsistence farming communities that occurred before civilized advancements. In these communities, every family lived to survive and wasted no time on creature comforts. They farmed for their food. They crafted for their use. Most importantly, they lived for their lives. Any excess time that they found was embraced and spent communally.  
The members of this community were never bored. They were never entirely overloaded with information, so they could always decipher between the essential and the irrelevant. They never took their community for granted, appreciating every moment they could spare with others.  
A perpetuation of this idea would see societies of people more inclined to share with others.



People would understand the struggles and plights of the people around them because they truly know them – city-dwellers live closer in proximity than anywhere else; however, these people are often the most likely to feel alone. Obviously, one must always take great care when throwing around a word like “utopia,” but, compared to now, we would be much closer an idyllic world?  
Imagine. The systemic epidemic of depression, loneliness, callousness, selfishness and indifference that continues to affect generation after generation to increasing extremes would be replaced by ecstatic appreciation for every new day. This seems to be the ultimate fulfillment of shalom. This seems to be the ultimate idea of heaven.  
Maybe, as Thoreau went to the woods to live deliberately, a return to subsistence farming communities is what our nation needs. Forget the concrete jungle – return to and cultivate the real jungle. Take the advice of the scores of articles damning progress and all its manifestations. Fight the greed of progress with true contentedness. Reverse the sickly flow of time, and watch all suffering begin to vanish before our eyes.

# The Buffington Post – an accessible river of secrets and information



Elizabeth Bouwkamp – Staff Writer

We are all guilty of hearing about the latest in demand app, going to the app store on our phone and pressing “download” before we even have time to contemplate our decision, let alone read that lengthy privacy settings agreement. If we are honest, no one has two hours of their time to waste on reading the terms and conditions, privacy settings and technical jargon thrown into each app downloading process. But should that technical speech deter us from making intelligent choices in this age of technological global invasion?  
Today, people of all ages find themselves downloading the Snapchat app. It allows us to connect through hilarious stories and pictures of ourselves with a simple touch of the screen, capturing picture and sound at the most appropriate and inopportune times simultaneously. We send that picture or video to our “friends” and know that just they are seeing it. But is that the end of it? Even if you are private in sending your pictures and videos, what about your inconsiderate and less than private friends? Are they giving out your information unknowingly with their carelessness?  
Referring to tech giants such as Apple and Facebook, Danny Boyle, director of the new October 9 release “Steve Jobs”, recently told

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## Young Blades team makes first appearance of 2015-16

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

The Dordt Blades started their season this weekend against the Creighton Blue Jays, traveling down to Omaha, NE for two games. The Jays came out flying on the short-benched Blades as Dordt played three rookies in both games, leaving them shell-shocked alongside the veterans.

Dordt allowed 5 goals in the first period of game one of the 2015-16 season. After the first period, the Blades seemed to fight back, scoring two goals and battling with the Jays until the end. The final score of the first game was 10-2, but this weekend seemed more about a learning experience than about winning or losing.

“This weekend was a real maturing period for the rookies,” said junior forward Levi Minderhoud. “After getting out-hit and out-skated badly in the first period, they grew steadily better every period. I’m excited to see them improve even more.”

The rookies had to step up and fill spots left vacant from last season. They were thrown into the fray right from the start, getting plenty of ice time in their first season with the Blades.

“I felt as the game progressed we became better players, especially for us rookies having our first experience at college level hockey,” said freshman forward Alex Lokhorst.

Last year’s leading scorer Aaron Ladzinski picked up where he left off, scoring all three Blades’ goals this weekend.

Although Creighton took both games, 10-2 and 8-1, the Blades improved from the first

period to the last. The Blades have 11 returning players to depend on from last season as well as multiple rookies, including freshmen Caleb Groot and Keaton De Jong. This weekend was a great learning experience for the two.

“It was a tough weekend,” said Blades head coach John Langeraa. “We have a lot to learn, and I believe that we have some things to improve on, and that near the end of the weekend we came together more as a team.”

The Blades will see more of Creighton now, as the Blue Jays are a new addition to the conference. This year, Creighton will play under probation and join official conference competition next season. Northern Iowa and South Dakota State are new additions this year as well. The Blades will not know if these teams will be added to their conference permanently until next March. Until then, the Blades have a long road ahead of them.

“I feel pretty optimistic about the upcoming season,” said assistant captain Lucas Koomans. “It was unfortunate that we lost quite a few players from last year, but we gained a lot of new freshmen who are willing to work hard. With 24 games ahead and having a shorter bench than previous years, we definitely will have our work cut out for us. But that doesn’t concern me too much, however, as our work ethic is strong this year.”

The team will have away games against Northern Illinois this weekend, Oct. 16-17, with the home opener the following weekend, Oct. 23-24, against Northern Iowa.

## Dordt campus embraces MLB postseason

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

The month of October ushers in a change of seasons, pumpkins and people in frightening costumes. But October also brings the end of America’s pastime; the MLB regular season has ended and the postseason has begun.

This year’s MLB postseason has more followers on campus than ever before. The teams in this year’s postseason come from the hometowns of many Dordt students: Toronto Blue Jays, Houston Astros, Texas Rangers, Kansas City Royals, Chicago Cubs, St. Louis Cardinals, Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Mets.

Because Canada has only one team in Major League Baseball, many Canadians find themselves rooting for Toronto. Blue Jays mania has begun at Dordt in opposition to Professor Walker Cosgrove’s Rangers. Future historians, make certain not to wear any Blue Jay apparel in his class.

“I remember driving down to Seattle as a kid to watch the Blue Jays whenever they came to town,” senior Tyler Couperus said. “Then moving to Ontario, we as a family made it a tradition to go watch our Jays on Canada day. They have pitching, hitting, fielding; if it’s going to happen, this is our year.”

Let’s not forget who the “home-town team” is in terms of proximity to Dordt’s campus. The Kansas City Royals are the closest team to Dordt’s campus, and many Defenders and Iowans take pride in it. Last season, they watched in pain as

their team lost in Game 7 of the World Series to the San Francisco Giants. But the Royals are back again this postseason and ready to claim the title.

“The Royals know it’s our championship to lose,” Freshman Carson Hildebrand said. “We made the moves at the offseason and during the season for this. We’re ready for this.”

Then, of course, there’s the Chicago Cubs. These “loveable losers” are back. Pride for the team shows up all over campus and Cubs’ fans rejoice from all over the country. After its first year of renovations to Wrigley Field, the Cubs are back after a seven-year absence—not quite as long as their World Series championship drought of 108 years. One thing the Cubs have going for them is that “Back to the Future II” had them win the 2015 World Series.

“We have a great group of rookies who are going to be here for a long time,” said Connor Hopkins, one of the most passionate Cubs fans on campus. “The Cubs have the momentum to win it all.”

There is a smaller population of Dodgers and Cardinals fans on campus. Both know how well their teams performed this season and how well they can do during the postseason. The Cardinals have won 13 World Series all-time, and the Dodgers have money spending habits similar to the New York Yankees.

This postseason will come and go, but there will be only one team that stands alone at the end. Some fan bases on campus will have bragging rights until 2016 brings a new season.

## Stiemsma’s journey from men’s soccer to women’s basketball and back again

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

Versatility is a desirable trait in any athlete but rarely does it manifest in a collegiate coach. However, Craig Stiemsma embodies versatility.

From head coach of the Dordt College men’s soccer program to women’s basketball and back, Stiemsma continues to fill in where necessary, doing so with utmost passion and skill.

Stiemsma made his first appearance as a Dordt College coach for the men’s soccer team back in 2003. For four years, Stiemsma patrolled the soccer field sidelines, compiling a 38-36-1 overall record. Twice he reached the GPAC semifinals and NAIA Regional quarterfinals. But despite successes with the men’s soccer program, Stiemsma found it hard to pass up another opportunity.

“I’ve always enjoyed basketball, so it wasn’t a hard transition,” Stiemsma said. “I was a part of the assistant and JV coaching during those earlier years with soccer, so I knew a lot of people in the program and had worked with Glenn Bouma for a few years.”

Bouma—now Dordt’s athletic director—had been the women’s basketball head coach for several years, but the head coaching position became open and ready to be filled. Stiemsma was a natural fit for the program.

“One thing about Craig Stiemsma: He will give you all of his energy and time available to do a good job in leading whatever sport he chooses to do so,” Bouma said. “He will run a good program and challenge young people, not only in athletics but also in spiritual, academic and citizenship development.”

When Stiemsma took the helm, the women’s basketball program went 111-130 from 2007-2015. During the 2009-10 season, he coached the women to tie a school-record of 19 wins

“Having the experience of coaching the men’s soccer team was very helpful in preparing me for coaching the women’s basketball team,” Stiemsma said. “In terms of training college athletes, recruiting and scholarships, the



organizational things were all very similar.”

Stiemsma enjoyed eight seasons as the head coach of the women’s basketball program but there was always a part of him that wanted to get back into soccer. In 2014, the opportunity presented itself.

Dave Schenk took over the men’s soccer program in 2008. When he announced his resignation before the 2014 season, the idea of returning to Dordt soccer wasn’t at the forefront of Stiemsma’s mind. But as the search committee brought in candidates, the reality of the opportunity dawned on him.

“As a basketball coach, kind of in the back of my mind, I always enjoyed soccer and wondered about it,” Stiemsma said. “And then opportunity wise, this was an opportunity where I could get back out there and really enjoy coaching soccer.”

In November 2014, Dordt College announced Stiemsma as the “new” men’s soccer head coach.

Now, over halfway through the season, the men’s soccer team has faced its fair share of ups

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## Golf teams build off individual success

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

Another fall golf season is in the books, and both the men and women’s teams find themselves with room to improve. With continued individual success, Dordt hopes to soon climb in the conference standings.

Golf is a game centered on individual performance and success; team standings and results go only as far as the four golfers’ official scores can carry them. This unique nature of golf makes the game what it is: a never-ending battle to improve one’s own performance.

The cliché quote “There is no ‘I’ in team” renders little truth in golf. For Dordt golf, both the men and women’s teams rely heavily on each individual golfer’s performance to keep the score low and the rankings high.

One of the top performances for the Dordt men’s golf team came at the Siouxland Invite early in September. Overall, the men placed 4th out of 18 teams, but they shot a collective 288 at Landsmeer Golf Club in Orange City, IA, on the first day of action. Dordt posted its lowest ever score at Landsmeer that day as a team, but it was built on the success of several individual performances: Tony Kallevig shot a 68 (-3), Jay Timmer shot a 72 (+1) and Will Mulder and Drake Wrather each shot a 76 (+5).

Kallevig and Timmer have pieced together several impressive rounds over the course of the fall season, helping push the men’s team towards new heights. For these two golfers and the remainder of the team, consistency is crucial.

“I think the biggest thing is for everyone to play more consistently,” Kallevig said. “Everyone on the team can play well, but we all need to play well at the same time. If we can all shoot well at the same time in the upcoming GPAC [conference meets], I think we’ll move up in the conference standings.”

Part of that consistency is based off of taking a round one hole and one shot at a time.

“Getting ahead of myself is what really messes

with my head,” said Kristin Stoffels, one of the top golfers on the women’s side. “I noticed that when I am relaxed and take my time to analyze my shot, it would have a better outcome.”

Yes, it’s a cliché. Yet golf is one of the few sports where each shot can make or break a hole, either ruining or improving a round. That’s what makes the mental aspect of golf such a critical aspect.

“Bobby Jones said that the most difficult course is five inches long. That’s the distance between your ears,” said Ben Crenshaw in Jimmy Roberts’ book, “Breaking the Slump.”

Bobby Jones was one of the designers for Augusta National Golf Club and co-founded the Masters Tournament. The world’s most prominent golfers have always recognized the importance of golf’s mental aspect and Dordt golf isn’t taking it lightly either.

“I have focused on playing simply one shot at a time and not allowing a bad shot or bad hole to cause me to unravel,” Timmer said. “That has helped me more than anything else. The moment I lose that focus, my game deteriorates.”

It’s with sharpened focus and strong individual play that golf enters the winter break. Winter is the greatest challenge for a golfer in Northwest Iowa; a snow-covered golf course is a closed golf course.

Instead, players will take advantage of hitting simulators, lifting weights and cardio workouts.

“Hitting off mats into nets is a decent way to keep your swing in rhythm,” said Dordt golf coach Mark Christians. “But it doesn’t really help a player get significantly better without actually playing golf holes.”

Bobby Jones said it best: “The best exercise for golfers is golfing.”

This winter could be the biggest inhibitor to the teams’ improvement through individual growth and success. How the men and women handle this winter break will ultimately decide just how many spots both teams can climb in the GPAC standings.



# Do you want to build a snowman? How about a Disney costume?

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

If you have ever dreamed of being a Disney princess, now is your chance. Dordt’s costume shop has been sewing a multitude of Disney character costumes.

At this point in the year, the costume shop workers are usually sewing costumes for the fall mainstage theatre show. However, the design concept for Godspell means that most of the costume pieces have been bought or pulled from the shop’s stock. Costume shop workers have had to do some sewing to add details or make sure the costumes fit well, but the work they’ve had to do is much lighter than for other shows.

Since the workers have so much free time and have received frequent requests from renters, the costume shop has been working on various Disney costumes. Among the creations are Pocahontas, Ariel, Merida, Cinderella, Elsa, Anna, Aurora, Tiana, Tinkerbell, Rapunzel and Mulan.

Rachel Hawkins, a costume shop manager, says the shop has had many requests for Disney costumes.

“We’ve had some pretty picky people in here who want to be Disney characters, but can’t find anything that works well enough. We’re excited to provide these options for renters,” Hawkins said.

Princess costumes aren’t the only thing the workers are making. The costume shop is also building Disney villain and prince costumes. Right now, they have Hook, Ursula, the Beast, Mother Gothel and Prince Eric.

Domenic Vermeulen has been creating the ugly stepsisters from Cinderella.

“I just took an ugly dress and made it uglier with bows and tulle. We have a lot of them and we’re hoping to be done with them by Halloween,” Vermeulen said.



Photo by Emily Curry  
Freshman Janelle Cammenga models a Disney princess costume.

Another door that opened for this project to be completed concerned its resources.

“Someone donated a ton of fabric this summer,” said Jessica Lillo, another costume shop manager. “We’ve been sewing some of them from scratch, although someone did donate the Merida costume.”

Students can rent costumes for up to two weeks for a small fee. Renters must also pay a \$10 deposit which is returned if the costume comes back in good condition. Accessories like crowns, wigs or shoes are also available; however, they cost extra and this money is not returned.

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# The Buffington Post (cont.)

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“The Hollywood Reporter” that these companies make even the government terrified. He claimed, “They’ve replaced petrochemical companies, pharmaceutical companies – they’re bigger than all of them put together.” Boyle directed a film in which he saw these tech companies with a critical eye, and maybe we should, too.

These giants have unprecedented control over us when we choose to be careless with our use of their services. In a vague and ambiguous statement regarding one way in which Snapchat uses your information, the website states the use of your information may be used to “carry out any other purpose for which the information was collected.” In a more daunting and detailed account, Snapchat claims that once you have given them your user content, they have

“an irrevocable, nonexclusive, worldwide, perpetual, royalty-free, sublicensable, and transferable license to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, edit, publish, create derivative works from, distribute, perform, promote, exhibit, and display such User Content in any and all media or distribution methods, now known or later developed.”

This is alarming and should be unnerving to you. We give Snapchat supremacy and allow for their association with us to leak its authority into our private lives. Sadly, the river of information

exposed in these social media outlets is giving not only tech companies a collection of data, but our government, as well.

With regard to your information, the data Snapchat collects and the regulations held by the government, your web information may never be deleted. In the privacy policy regarding message deletion, Snapchat states “we also sometimes receive requests from law enforcement requiring us by law to suspend our ordinary server-deletion practices for specific information.” When does this apply? What about other countries? Snapchat makes it clear that “while you’re in another country, know that your information may be available to government or law enforcement requests.” No specific answer can be given as to the legitimate and accurate use of your online information.

Are we all authentic crime case scenarios oblivious to the potential repercussions of our online actions? Do we need whistleblower Edward Snowden to sound a cry in our private yet uncovered lives?

In the words of Marshall McLuhan, “The more the data banks record about each one of us, the less we exist.” Do you need that latest app? Do you need the wealth and already growing sea of knowledge about you to increase into yet another avenue for information gathering? Consider it before you press “download” again.

# “Straggler” short film: an introduction

Meagan DeGraaf – Staff Writer

While some schools cut budgets for theater programs and discourage an intensive study of the arts, Dordt College and its student body embrace the artistic side of life. For Dordt students, this means joining music ensembles, taking photographs, writing poetry, painting or creating films – for fun as much as for the grade and the transcript.

For example, junior Kyle Fosse got an idea for a short film last summer and decided to combine his writing and directing skills with the talents of his fellow art-creating peers to make his dream a reality. He found cinematographers, a producer and an editor on Dordt’s campus to help with the project.

Many students at Dordt are interested in the process of film-making. Even though the school’s digital media program is relatively new, that hasn’t stopped students from creating high quality cinematic art during their time at college. Dordt’s digital media program has helped create several successful screenwriters and filmmakers despite its young age. Twenty years ago, few opportunities existed for students to create films, but now, media majors and interested parties are encouraged to exercise their creativity.

Fosse wrote the script for his film last summer, and thus began the long process of making a film. Like much of the work of the art world, this short film struggles with a deeper question and hopes to evoke thought from its audience.

Fosse believes that we are all stragglers, struggling with our own problems in our own way. The question he hopes to answer is one of perspective. “How can we turn our difficulties into something good, in spite of our misgivings?”

“My motivation behind it was the idea that we’re all running from something,” Fosse said. The film, set in West Germany in the 1940s, deals with the question in context of the struggles happening there at that time. Even though the setting contrasts our current time, the same questions of struggle face us today.

After a script is written, it must warrant enough merit to be made into a film. Finding actors, props and settings is not easy, especially

on a low budget, and shooting can take days – even for a short film. After that, the film must be cut into an editing program and scoured for details to ensure that it reflects its purpose as perfectly as possible. The whole process requires input and help from people of all skills.

It is especially difficult for students to create a film in addition to taking on full class loads, but Fosse has a passion for the project and for filmmaking as a whole. The film should be completed soon as a result of the hardworking cast and crew and will be screened in the area near the Grille sometime this December.



Photos by Kyle Fosse  
Dordt College actor Tebi Njilejack portrays Private John Thomas in “The Straggler.”

# Film Review: “Pan” pan-ned by critics, but overall a cool movie

Kyle Fosse – Staff Writer

Prepare to suspend any disbelief and return to Neverland one more time. Joe Wright (the director of both “Pride and Prejudice” and the Best Picture nominee “Atonement”) has outdone himself in this absurd adventure.

The movie begins with Peter, played by Levi Miller, being orphaned and eventually captured by pirates escaping the oppression of a group of callous nuns. The pirates fly him to the floating dream world of Neverland, where thousands of orphans like him are held captive by the fierce Blackbeard. While there, Peter teams up with a reluctant James Hook and a sniveling Smee in order to escape and find his mother. By the way, his mother married a fairy. Still with me?

Facing the dangers of natives (somewhat less offensively portrayed than in other movies), flying ships, and strange giant birds, the heroes - and villains - set off on an adventure involving fairies, crocodiles, and all the other pseudo-nostalgic references that you could imagine.

Hugh Jackman struts his stuff in a Johnny Depp-esque, maniacal performance as the pirate king Blackbeard. His character brought some much-needed color to the predominantly flat personalities portrayed by most of the cast. I’m not saying that they weren’t funny, or entertaining - they just weren’t very deep.

Garret Hedlund plays Hook, a dapper scoundrel in the vein of Han Solo, or Indiana Jones; the man practically breathes like a young Harrison Ford. Hook travels alongside a nerdy Smee, who is entertaining and delightful nature matches the much-beloved Disney character.

One thing the audience misses out on in this film is the lack of exploration for Hook’s character. Hedlund’s performance, while enjoyable, gives very little to a character with

so much potential. The film barely touches on his fall to evil-pirate-ness, instead opting for the friendlier approach of simply ignoring the backstory there.

Visually, the film sports gorgeous, highly digitized cinematography: the drab grey, washed-out London orphanage; the brown, claustrophobic pirate mines; and the oversaturated color-fests of Neverland. All these give homage to the delight of the worlds that they inhabit. Every frame is a painting.

One of the biggest problems with this movie is that it’s so hard to not compare to everything else in the movie world – performances seem to imitate someone else’s style, the soundtrack sounds radically similar to the swinging trumpets of “Pirates of the Caribbean”. Even Peter’s path to greatness feels similar to many ‘chosen one’ movies that we’ve seen before.

The abundance of elements involved in creating the world go to a fair extent in fleshing out the story. Even so, I couldn’t reconcile the strange juxtaposition of rock songs from artists such as Nirvana against the fantastical nature of the pirate-infested Neverland. Such a confusing paradox left a contrast of elements and ideas not fully fleshed-out taking me out of the movie’s world at times.

Where “Peter Pan” brought us the childhood magic of ‘the second star to the right,’ “Hook” offered a humorous take on Peter rediscovering himself, and “Finding Neverland” explored the backstory of the world behind the world. “Pan” attempts to bundle all these ideas up into one. It’s absurd, raucous, swashbuckling, and only a few steps away from “a pretty great movie.”

It feels unfair to give “Pan” any less than three stars, but it would be too compromising to give it any more.

So, three it is.



# ◆ The Back Page ◆



*Photo by Christina Chahyadinata*  
John and Beth Baas converse with a student at the Scholarship Banquet.

## Humans of Dordt College



*Cora Okkema, senior*

“ I’m passionate about overcoming the social injustice of sex trafficking. It scares me how many people are involved with it and how easily someone can be sex trafficked. A family could sell their youngest daughter just so they can have food for the next week or the next month. They’ve deemed it okay because overall, they think everyone is getting the benefit of it. I think the most disgusting and disturbing part about it is that the people being used within the sex trafficking business are not seen as humans. They aren’t seen as people who have potential, who have personalities, who have a life. They’re seen as cattle, livestock, to be sold and auctioned off. They lose their humanity. I think the saddest part of this whole thing is that the person ends up thinking they deserve this or this is how life is supposed to be, all because they lack true love in their life and the decency of being seen as a human being. ”

## Stiemsma’s journey (cont.)

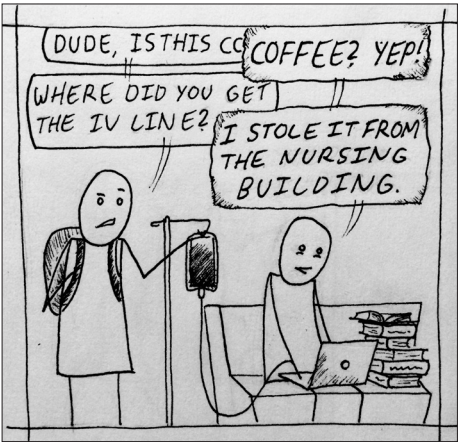
*Continued from page 6*

and downs. The season started off with three straight victories followed by four straight losses. As of Oct. 12, the men’s record sits at 4-6-1 overall and 1-3-1 in the GPAC.

Despite being off-pace from last year’s strong team performance—7-5 through Oct. 11, 2014—Dordt isn’t far behind. Even losing 10 seniors from last year’s team, the squad is adjusting well to Stiemsma’s coaching style.

“It was tough adjusting at the beginning, losing some seniors and key players,” said midfielder Alex Durbin. “The coaching styles between Schenk and Stiemsma were quite different, and player-coach interaction was too. But I think it’s been improving as the offseason and now season move along. It really helped having Stiemsma announced as coach last year so he could be involved in some recruiting and spring events ahead of time.”

Thus ensues the nature of collegiate athletics. Players and coaches change and transitions are made. Versatility will always be key, and fortunately, Craig Stiemsma brings versatility to Dordt College.



*Above: Cartoon by Jonathan Fictorie*

*Right: Typography by Christina Chahyadinata*

